

## ***Connect with English:***

### **Exploring American Language and Culture through Film**



**English Language Office  
U.S. Embassy, Moscow  
<http://www.usembassy.ru/english>**

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## **Introduction**

*Connect with English* is a useful educational series on DVD ROM, available to teachers through the English Language Office (ELO) of the U.S. Embassy in Moscow or U.S. Consulates in Russia. The series has 48 episodes (15 minutes each) and it is a great way to improve not only English language proficiency, but to increase awareness about American culture, values, and way of life. This series can be used with or without accompanying books, depending on the availability of print materials and the aims of your course.

Materials in this handbook were created and compiled by Russia English Language Fellows Danai Long, Stephanie Funderburg, Sally Barrett, and Judy Elliott

## Ideas for Teaching without Workbooks

Here are a variety of communicative activities that can be used with the series when books are not available. The tasks focus on speaking, listening, and cultural studies using pair and group work.

1. **Learning Everyday Expressions:** While watching, have students make note of all the unknown expressions and or phrases they hear. Ask the class to name the phrases they hear and have class discussions to figure out what they mean; giving clues should the class need help. Have some examples ready for each week. i.e.: “gigs”, “put me on edge”, “A Breeze”, “Math’s my best subject.” “Call it Quits”, “Folks”, “Gotcha”, “A-1 condition”, “She’s all ‘fired up’ about the idea”.
2. **Video Comprehension:** Before class, write one-sentence descriptions of 5 scenes from the episode on note cards or strips of paper. Have the students work in pairs or groups of 3 to place them in the proper order (make sure that you have enough sets of sentences for each pair or group). Review as a class to make sure that everyone has the placed them in the correct order. (This can also be used at the beginning of the next session – as review.)
3. **Sub Topics and Titles:** Each of the three parts of each DVD session has a mini topic – have students list the topics while watching the DVD session and compare them with their classmates through discussion. Replay each part, one at a time, and have students make subtitles for each part of the sessions. Compare and discuss as a class the titles that students have chosen and why.
4. **Prediction:** Introduce the title of the Video/DVD session, in a class discussion, and have students predict what is going to happen with Rebecca, her family, and friends -- based on the title. Ask why they think that the title was chosen. After viewing the episode, discuss if their predictions were correct and if they felt the title was appropriately chosen.
5. **Cultural representation comparison:** Have students choose one cultural representation after viewing. Students take a sheet of paper and make two columns – label one column *America* and one column *Russian*. Have the students (alone, in pairs or groups) write aspects of the representation seen in the session in the America column and then write the Russian similarity or difference in the Russian column. See which student, pair, or group comes up with the most examples – then share all examples as a class in a group discussion.
6. **Discussion panel:** After watching a 15-minute episode and listening to the discussion panel, give the participants time to reflect with one another and ask questions. Then, pick about five willing students to sit in chairs in the front of the class and have a discussion panel of their own -- similar to the video. It’s fun and useful to hear opinions from the Russian point of view about what happened in this American soap opera. This also gives the participants time to reflect on the similarities and differences between the two cultures. If you have students from other cultures, it’s great if they are willing to participate as well. This could also be a talk show format with the teacher as the host.

7. **Character descriptions:** Place large pieces of paper on the walls around the room with the names of each character at the top. In small groups, have the class divide equally and brainstorm everything they can think about this character. When finished, the teacher goes around the room and discusses different characteristics with the class giving time for other people to add to the list.
8. **Story mapping:** After each episode, write a short summary paragraph on a piece of paper and hang it up on the wall in the order events take place. First, the class will brainstorm the major points that took place in the episode; then, the class can dictate summary paragraph to the teacher who writes it on chart paper. This is a very interactive process and allows students to see examples of paragraph writing. If a student misses a class, he or she can just look at the story map (ideally hanging on the wall) and get a summary of what they missed, authentically authored by their classmates.
9. **Sound off:** Watch a scene without the sound and students guess what the characters are saying by observing their actions and body language (maybe even discuss the cultural differences in the body language). Then, in pairs or small groups, students recreate the scene in front of the whole group using their own version.
10. **Songs:** There are simple, catchy tunes that are heard throughout the whole series. Do a listening exercise where you preview difficult vocabulary and then give the students part of the lyrics and they need to listen for the rest. Afterwards, sing the song together. Once the students know the songs, sing them as ice breakers at the beginning of the lessons.
11. **Creative writing:** Assign creative writing tasks as homework. Students can incorporate topics, expressions or themes that they learned in class into their writing. For example: You are Rebecca's friend, write a letter to her explaining why you think she should (or should not) go to music school; Describe a goal or dream that you've had for a long time; Describe a time when you were "in a bad mood". Students can also create "Dialog Journals" to interact with the teacher and other classmates.
12. **Books as teacher resource:** It is useful if the teacher has one copy of some of the accompanying books to help with planning. You can order new or inexpensive used copies from Amazon.com. The Video Comprehension Book includes sections entitled *Preview, Main Idea, Details, Cultural Highlights, Expressions, Review and Discuss* sections. If you need to focus on grammar, the Grammar Guide offers an outline of the different structures each episode features along with charts and practice activities. And the Conversation Book includes games, songs, information gaps, role plays and creative discussion activities. Why reinvent the wheel?!
13. **Sample 1.5 hr lesson:**
  - For a multi-level, multi-aged group that meets once-a-week:
    - a. Preview the last episode. As a whole group or in pairs, students retell what happened.
    - b. Go over homework if assigned.

- c. Play the discussion portion at the end of the previous episode and have the group provide their own opinions (a good review but this can be played at the end of the previous lesson as well).
- d. Write on the board the new vocabulary, expressions, and cultural items for the section you are about to watch. Discuss them. Another option would be to have the students find their own new vocabulary, expressions, and cultural items and write them down as they listen to the section and compare lists afterwards.
- e. Write a few guiding questions on the board for students to think about as they view the section.
- f. After they watch the section, discuss the questions in small groups and then share with whole class.
- g. Do some of the suggested activities.
- h. Repeat steps d-g for all of the sections in each episode.
- i. Usually one episode provides plenty of discussion material for a 1.5 hour lesson but it's possible to view two episodes per lesson if you're eager to view them all. It is helpful to watch the episodes more than once during a lesson.

## **Tentative Schedule for a 2-day Workshop**

### ***Connect with English (Video)***

#### **Day 1**

##### **I. Introduction**

- a. Instructor and Teachers
- b. Why are we here?
- c. Has anyone used videos in their classrooms? If yes explain.
- d. What are the advantages of using video in Classroom?
  - Students learn in different ways, listening, speaking, reading, writing, seeing and doing; visual aids reach students who are visual learners. (Over 50 percent)
  - Brings learning from abstract to practical – makes the content come alive learning English through a story.
  - Keeps students engaged in learning the use of meaningful, natural everyday language.
  - Makes class and learning more fun and interesting
  - Improve helps pronunciation through learning popular American expressions and American culture
  - address universal themes and real-life important issues
  - Activities enable students to develop in all skill areas and communicate naturally.

##### **II. Goal of the Workshop: (present and discuss)**

- a. Teachers will enhance existing English language curricula through the introduction of video use in their classrooms Secondary goal: English teachers will improve their English communication skills, teaching practices and methodology.
- b. Objectives:
  - Teachers will be able to recognize the advantages and pedagogical uses of video usage in their classroom.
  - Teachers will participate in lessons using Video (multi media) in the classroom
  - Teachers will be able to choose appropriate activities for various levels of learners to complement the use of video in the classroom – Pre, during and after watching the video.
  - Teachers will focus on important listening and speaking skills while learning how to use this video series in their own classrooms
  - Teachers will be able to use videos effectively during the teaching a lesson.

##### **III. Workbooks and Video Introduction**

*Connect with English* can be used in educational institutions or workplace training programs, as a college-credit telecourse for distance learners, as a classroom resource, or as a self-study enrichment course for learners at home. Like the broadcast series, the accompanying set of companion print materials from the McGraw-Hill Companies is designed for a variety of group and individual learning situations. Learner.org

In *Connect with English*, on-screen dialogue is authentic but subtly simplified, and key lines are repeated, idioms paraphrased, and important events retold in a way that's natural to the ongoing drama. The storyline of *Connect with English* is constructed so that students learn the language they need specific to a variety of situations: work, school, home, hospitals, and urban and rural locations throughout the United States. ([Learner.org](http://Learner.org))

a. Watch the Teachers Introductory Video about the program.

[Meet the main characters and see highlights of future programs in this continuing drama. One of the ESOL learners featured in the series reveals how the storyline mirrors her own experience. The companion print materials are also introduced along with tips for using the series to help students connect with English.]

b. Present the corresponding books for the course.

- Video Comprehension – Pre, during and post activities to provide an overall understanding of the video.
- Grammar Guide – presents to the basic Structures and grammatical features of the English Language presented in the Video
- Conversation Book – to help develop communication skills using the themes from the video.
- Video Script – allows seeing the language in print for use in the class

ii. Discuss any issues – questions that teachers have about the program.

IV. Conduct Lesson (s)

- a. Have teachers participate in a 1 or 2 hour lesson with Pre, during and after exercises and activities. (viewing and participating in at least one sessions of CwE)
- b. Discuss ideas about different activities
- c. Discuss Feeling – pros and cons of Video in the classroom
- d. Review things learned.

V. Teaching Practicum

- a. Teachers are broken down into teams of teachers (2-4 per team).
- b. Each team is assigned one lesson with one session of CwE.
- c. Teachers must prepare and team teach a cohesive lesson with their group on the CwE Session they are assigned.
- d. The teachers are given the afternoon to prepare lessons for their CwE sessions with help from EFL, video and workbooks materials in addition to their own creativeness.
  - The lessons must contain introduction, pre, during and after video activities.
  - Each team member must participate as a teacher in lesson.
  - Each team member must teach at least one activity which engages a conversation, pair work or team work.



## **Day 2**

- I. Welcome Teams
  - a. Discuss the lesson planning session yesterday.
    - Any difficulties?
    - Any successes?
- II. Teacher Practicum (approx 4 hours) (If there are more teachers you may extend workshop to an additional day)
  - a. In order of video sessions teams will teach their lessons to the group.
  - b. Two teams will teach lessons
  - c. Break
  - d. Two teams will teach
- III. Review and discuss lessons with teachers and class – after each lesson.
  - a. What activities/discussions were the most successful in the lessons?
  - b. What activities/discussions were the least successful in the lessons?
  - c. What did the teachers enjoy most? Least?
- IV. Review and Discuss Goals – Objectives
  - a. Discuss how the workshop met the goal and the objectives stated in the beginning.
  - b. Discuss how they may be able to use Video in their classes.
- V. Certificate Presentation
  - a. Thanks for participating in this workshop
  - b. Teachers complete workshop survey

## Content of the Episodes

### Introduction

Meet the main characters and see highlights of future programs in this continuing drama. One of the ESOL learners featured in the series reveals how the storyline mirror their own experience. The companion print materials are also introduced along with tips for using the series to help students connect with English. ([Learner.org](http://Learner.org))

### Rebecca's Dream

Rebecca Casey, the star of Connect with English, is a twenty-eight-year-old woman with aspirations beyond her factory job and occasional, small-time singing gigs. After her accompanist tells her he wants to quit performing, Rebecca's boyfriend Matt suggests she do the same. Instead, Rebecca contemplates applying to music school so she can pursue a full-time career as a singer-songwriter. ([Learner.org](http://Learner.org))

### Differences

Rebecca begins the application process for music school while her brother, Kevin, prepares for high school graduation. Their father, a widower and disabled firefighter, worries about his children: Will Kevin pass his final exams? Is Rebecca making a mistake by pursuing such a chancy career? Although her own dreams are simpler, Rebecca's co-worker, Sandy, supports her friend's big ambitions. ([Learner.org](http://Learner.org))

### A Visit to the Doctor

Rebecca's father goes to the doctor and learns he's at risk for a heart attack. Back at home, however, Patrick Casey ignores the doctor's advice to exercise and watch his diet. Rebecca and Matt attend a Memorial Day barbecue. Sandy and her boyfriend, Jack, are there too, until he gets drunk and storms out of the party. ([Learner.org](http://Learner.org))

### Celebrations

Kevin graduates from high school. After receiving rejection letters from three music schools, Rebecca is accepted at one in San Francisco, where she plans to live rent-free with her godmother. She tells Sandy the good news and prepares for a confrontation with her father. ([Learner.org](http://Learner.org))

### Breaking the News

As expected, Rebecca's father disapproves of her plans to go to music school in San Francisco. Sandy has her own news to share with Rebecca: She plans to move in with Jack. Rebecca doesn't like the idea. Kevin helps his sister look for a car to drive across country, but they can't find anything in her price range. ([Learner.org](http://Learner.org))

### Saying Goodbye

While Rebecca gets ready to leave, her father secretly shops for a car that his daughter can drive to San Francisco. At a farewell softball game, Rebecca makes an important play but her team loses anyway. After the game, her friends give her a going-away present. Matt tells Rebecca they have different dreams and breaks up with her. ([Learner.org](http://Learner.org))

### Leaving Home

Rebecca's father surprises her with a car and a necklace that belonged to her mother. Kevin's farewell gift is a four-leaf clover key ring for luck. Sandy gives her friend a diary to record

everything that happens on her trip. On her way out of Boston, Rebecca stops at her mother's grave. ([Learner.org](http://Learner.org))

### **The Stranger**

Rebecca's cross-country journey reaches Texas. During a stop for gas, she discovers her car is leaking oil but decides she doesn't have time to check it out. Later that day, her car breaks down in the middle of the desert. An attractive man named Alberto stops to help her, but he can't get the car running. Although she's a bit nervous about it, Rebecca goes with Alberto to find help. ([Learner.org](http://Learner.org))

### **The Motel**

Alberto and Rebecca reach a phone and call a mechanic, but it's too late in the day to do anything about her car. They drive to a motel for the night, where there is only one room available. Alberto insists he will sleep in his car so Rebecca can have the room. She feels guilty, but takes the room. ([Learner.org](http://Learner.org))

### **Negotiations**

After Alberto uses the shower in Rebecca's motel room; they get breakfast and wait for the mechanic to finish working on her car. Rebecca ends up selling her car to the mechanic after she finds out she can't afford the cost of the repairs. Alberto tells Rebecca he's from San Francisco and offers to drive her there. She declines, but accepts a ride to the bus station. ([Learner.org](http://Learner.org))

### **Photos and Farewells**

Rebecca learns that Alberto is an amateur photographer and that his family is from Mexico. They stop at a canyon where he takes pictures, including one with Rebecca in it. On the road again, Alberto is pulled over for speeding, but they make it to the bus on time. Rebecca gives him her San Francisco address along with a warning that she isn't ready for a new relationship. ([Learner.org](http://Learner.org))

### **A New Home**

Rebecca arrives in San Francisco. Her godmother, Nancy, meets her at the bus station and drives her through the city to a beautiful, Victorian house. Rebecca is surprised to discover that Nancy has taken in two boarders to help pay the bills and that she, too, will have to pay rent to live there. ([Learner.org](http://Learner.org))

### **Meet the Discussion Group**

Eight participants in the series' discussion group are profiled. They talk countries of origin, their dreams, their lives in the United States, and their connection to Rebecca Casey's story. ([Learner.org](http://Learner.org))

### **Job Hunting**

The boarders, Melaku and Angela, share a meal with Rebecca to welcome her to the household. Life in Nancy's house is an adjustment for Rebecca: new food, bathroom, paying rent. Rebecca takes the bus to school, where the work-study program has been canceled due to government funding cuts and that she needs to find a job. ([Learner.org](http://Learner.org))

### **A Bad Day**

Rebecca searches in vain for a job. She finds out she isn't qualified for several positions and runs out of one interview after a man puts his arm around her and tells her he's looking for an attractive woman to work closely with him. Back at Nancy's house, Rebecca shares job-hunting horror stories with Angela. Alberto invites Rebecca out to see the sights of the city. ([Learner.org](http://Learner.org))

### **A Night Out**

Alberto takes Rebecca to the Palace of Fine Arts where he convinces her to sing for him. For dinner, they go to Casa Mendoza, his family's restaurant, where Rebecca meets Alberto's parents and his divorced brother, Ramon. When Ramon hears about Rebecca's music skills, he suggests a possible job opening at his son's after-school program. ([Learner.org](http://Learner.org))

### **First Day of Class**

Rebecca's first day of classes is harder than she expected. She also discovers that her tuition is almost due and she doesn't have the money. After class, Rebecca goes to the after-school program for a job interview. While there, she meets Ramon's son, Alex, and his best friend, Vincent Wang. Meanwhile, Alberto tells his brother that investors want to buy the family's restaurant. ([Learner.org](http://Learner.org))

### **Casey at the Bat**

Rebecca takes the job at the after-school program and is a big hit with the kids, especially on the softball field. Alberto sends flowers to Rebecca and asks her out to a gallery opening where a surprise is waiting for her. While watching his brother's budding romance, Ramon realizes his own feelings for Rebecca are beginning to grow. ([Learner.org](http://Learner.org))

### **The Art Gallery**

Ramon receives a letter from his ex-wife telling him she's moving to Los Angeles--and that she wants to take Alex with her. Alberto and Rebecca go to the gallery where the photo he took of her in the desert is on display. They kiss for the first time. When Alberto tells his parents about the investors' offer for Casa Mendoza, they are unsure. Ramon is against selling the restaurant. ([Learner.org](http://Learner.org))

### **The Picnic**

At a picnic, teenagers from outside the after-school program push Vincent and call him racist names. Alex defends his friend but the other children in the program laugh at Vincent. Vincent's parents are upset by the kids' behavior and remove him from the program. Meanwhile, Ramon and Rebecca have a heart-to-heart talk about his divorce and his ex-wife's plans to move to Los Angeles. ([Learner.org](http://Learner.org))

### **Prejudice**

Rebecca and Emma, the after-school program director, explain to the children why it was wrong to laugh at the racist incident. A police officer tells them that what happened to Vincent at the picnic was a hate crime. Meanwhile, Vincent's parents refuse to let him go back to the after-school program. The kids write letters asking Vincent to return. ([Learner.org](http://Learner.org))

### **A Difficult Decision**

Rebecca and Emma go to Chinatown to deliver the children's cards and letters and talk to Vincent's parents about the racist incident. When the Wangs still won't allow their son to return to the after-school program, Rebecca suggests a way for Alex and Vincent to see each

other: she will give the boys guitar lessons together. Ramon thinks it's a great idea. ([Learner.org](#))

### **Guitar Lessons**

Alex and Vincent are thrilled when the Wangs agree to let Rebecca give them guitar lessons. Although Alex wishes his parents would get back together, he likes Rebecca and asks his father whether he plans to date her. Ramon confides in Rebecca that he may have to go to court to keep his ex-wife from taking Alex to Los Angeles. ([Learner.org](#))

### **The Retirement Party**

Ramon tells Alex about his ex-wife's moving plans. Alex has a temper tantrum when he realizes his parents aren't going to reconcile. Alberto takes Rebecca to Casa Mendoza for his parents' retirement party. Mrs. Mendoza gossips with her friends about whether Rebecca should marry Alberto or Ramon. ([Learner.org](#))

### **The Phone Call**

At the retirement party, Mr. Mendoza announces that he will not sell the restaurant. Ramon asks Rebecca to dance while Alberto watches from afar. The fun ends abruptly for Rebecca when her godmother and Angela show up to tell her that her father is in the hospital. Alberto kisses her goodbye as she leaves to fly home. ([Learner.org](#))

### **Rebecca Remembers**

#### **Review**

As she flies back to Boston, Rebecca reflects on recent events in her life. ([Learner.org](#))

### **The Emergency**

Kevin meets Rebecca at the airport in Boston and tells her about their father's heart attack. At the hospital, Patrick Casey is barely conscious and a doctor tells Rebecca and Kevin he may not survive. They decide to go back to the apartment where Rebecca is horrified to discover a huge mess and a practically empty refrigerator. ([Learner.org](#))

### **Bad News**

When Kevin and Rebecca return to the hospital, they learn that their father has had a second heart attack. They call for a priest to administer last rites and track down Patrick's estranged brother, Brendan. Sandy shows up at the hospital with a black eye from her boyfriend Jack and tells Rebecca her wedding to him is off. ([Learner.org](#))

### **Brothers**

Brendan Casey arrives at the hospital to see his critically-ill brother. After reconciling with Brendan, Patrick has yet another heart attack and dies. Rebecca makes funeral arrangements and tries to find out what caused the feud between Patrick and Brendan. Alberto sends flowers to the funeral. ([Learner.org](#))

### **Grief**

At the funeral, Rebecca and Kevin are presented with Patrick's firefighter helmet in recognition of their father's bravery and service. Matt is there to pay his respects. Sandy stops by and tells Rebecca that Jack has promised never to hit her again. Kevin eulogizes his father. Back at the house, Brendan and his wife Anne offer to help Rebecca and Kevin. ([Learner.org](#))

### **Life Goes On**

Rebecca asks Kevin to go to San Francisco with her so they can be a family again. Although Kevin has no idea how much an apartment costs, he tells his sister he can take care of himself. They add up the bills and discover there isn't enough money to cover the funeral expenses. Kevin and Rebecca search through Patrick's room for an insurance policy. ([Learner.org](http://Learner.org))

### **A Box of Memories**

Rebecca and Kevin find a safe deposit box key among their father's things. At the bank, they discover that the safe deposit box contains letters, pictures, \$4,000 in savings bonds and a \$50,000 life insurance policy. More financially secure than they thought they were, Rebecca and Kevin discuss the future. Kevin wants to stay in Boston, but his sister disapproves. ([Learner.org](http://Learner.org))

### **The Missing Car**

Kevin and Rebecca have lunch with Anne and Brendan as they consider their options for the future. Kevin storms off when Rebecca starts making decisions about his life. He returns home long enough to take Brendan's rental car which he drives to his girlfriend's house. Meanwhile, Brendan and Anne invite Rebecca and Kevin to stay at their farm. ([Learner.org](http://Learner.org))

### **A Breakdown**

Kevin's girlfriend tells him she's seeing other guys and no longer wants a serious relationship. Back at the house, Brendan and Anne discover their car is missing. Looking for Kevin, Rebecca calls Sandy. Jack is angry at the late call and rips the phone out of the wall. Kevin returns home, but then runs off again. Rebecca finds him grieving over their father's death. ([Learner.org](http://Learner.org))

### **A Call For Help**

When Kevin and Rebecca return home, Brendan again asks them to live with him on his Illinois farm. A phone call from Sandy interrupts the conversation. Jack hit her again and she's leaving him. Brendan drives Rebecca and Kevin to Sandy's house to take her out of the abusive situation. ([Learner.org](http://Learner.org))

### **Changes**

Jack tries to stop Sandy from leaving, but she calls the police and he is arrested. Sandy goes to a battered women's shelter at the recommendation of the police. Kevin and Rebecca decide to take Brendan up on his invitation to go to Illinois and they pack up the apartment. Their last piece of mail is a sympathy card from Ramon and Alex. ([Learner.org](http://Learner.org))

### **The Farm**

Kevin and Rebecca arrive at Brendan and Anne's farm. Anne tells them the farm has been in her family since the early 1900s. After Brendan shows him the workings of the farm, Kevin decides to stay for a while so Rebecca can return to San Francisco without worrying about him, and he can help out his uncle. ([Learner.org](http://Learner.org))

### **Thanksgiving**

Brendan and Anne's son and his family arrive at the farm for Thanksgiving dinner, where everyone expresses gratitude for their newly extended family. Kevin announces his decision to stay at the farm. As he drives Rebecca to the airport, Brendan explains the reason for his feud with her father: Patrick married his girlfriend while Brendan was away at war. ([Learner.org](http://Learner.org))

### **Starting Over**

Rebecca returns to San Francisco, where she discovers she is far behind in her studies and has been replaced at the after-school program. She discusses what she learned about Brendan and her parents with her godmother, who is happy to hear that the brothers made their peace before Patrick died. Meanwhile, Ramon and Alberto are both anxious to see Rebecca. ([Learner.org](http://Learner.org))

### **The Pressure's On**

When Rebecca and Ramon run into each other, they share a closer-than-usual embrace. At school, Rebecca learns that she'll have to study nearly 'round the clock to pass her final exams or risk losing her scholarship. Angela and Melaku are going away, leaving Rebecca and Nancy alone for the holidays. Alberto welcomes Rebecca back with tickets to the opera, but she worries about taking a night off from studying. ([Learner.org](http://Learner.org))

### **Sharing Feelings**

Rebecca and her classmate, Bill, study together for final exams. He confesses that he wants to be a rock and roll star and convinces Rebecca to join him at an audition for a rock group. Rebecca declines an opera date with Alberto, plunging him into depression. When he shares his feelings with his brother, Ramon chides him for being impatient and selfish. ([Learner.org](http://Learner.org))

### **Unexpected Offers**

After sending Alex off to Los Angeles for Christmas, Ramon delivers his son's gifts to Vincent, Rebecca, and Alberto. Meanwhile, Vincent's father is offered a job in Taiwan. Mr. Wang thinks it will be good for the family, particularly after the recent racist incident with Vincent. Surprising himself, Ramon invites Rebecca to share Christmas with him, then hastily withdraws the offer. He confesses the invitation to Alberto and they agree that they need to talk about Rebecca. ([Learner.org](http://Learner.org))

### **The Audition**

Rebecca studies hard for her exams, telling Nancy her education is more important to her than a romance with Alberto or Ramon. At the audition, Rebecca and Bill are kept waiting. After they discover that the band has already left, the manager lets them record their songs in the studio. Rebecca sings a beautiful song she wrote called "Dream Catcher." ([Learner.org](http://Learner.org))

### **Dream Catcher**

The studio manager gives Rebecca a tape of her singing "Dream Catcher," which Bill offers to orchestrate for her. When Rebecca arrives home late that night, she receives a message from Alberto. Nancy tells Rebecca to resolve the Mendoza brothers' situation or history will repeat itself. Bill narrates a flashback sequence about Rebecca's music education. ([Learner.org](http://Learner.org))

### **Gifts**

Alberto shows up at the music school recording studio to talk to Rebecca. They break up but agree to be friends. He gives her a photo of Ramon and Alex, which Nancy later tells Rebecca is a sign that Alberto thinks she should be with his brother. Rebecca and Ramon spend Christmas together at the community center. When Ramon calls his son in Los Angeles, he is happy to hear that his father is with Rebecca. ([Learner.org](http://Learner.org))

### **True Love**

Rebecca and Ramon exchange Christmas presents and their first kiss. They make plans to spend New Year's Eve together at Casa Mendoza. Kevin celebrates Christmas at the farm with Brendan and Anne. They give him a plane ticket to San Francisco to visit his sister. Kevin calls Rebecca to tell her the good news. ([Learner.org](http://Learner.org))

### **Friendship**

Kevin arrives in San Francisco where Rebecca finishes Bill's newly arranged version of "Dream Catcher." Bill reveals that he is quitting music school to follow his dream of working in the recording industry in Los Angeles. Meanwhile, Alex and Vincent lament their impending separation and hatch a plan to spend one last New Year's Eve together. ([Learner.org](http://Learner.org))

### **The Lost Boys**

Alex and Vincent take off on their own for a night of ice skating. When the Wangs discover Vincent's empty piggy bank, Rebecca and Kevin help in the search for the boys. Alex hurts his ankle skating and ends up in the hospital. Meanwhile, Kevin meets Alex's babysitter and the two teenagers are obviously attracted to each other. ([Learner.org](http://Learner.org))

### **A Very Good Year**

The Wangs pick up the boys from the hospital. Vincent learns that he and his mother will stay in the United States while his father goes to Taiwan. Before he realizes his son is safe, Ramon starts to question his parenting abilities. Alex is delivered home and Ramon promises to be a better father. As the old year winds down, Rebecca and Ramon kiss and hope for a very happy new year. ([Learner.org](http://Learner.org))



## Ideas for Incorporating Grammar

### Introduction

Introduction: An overview of the course and an introduction to the main characters in the drama. ([Learner.org](http://Learner.org))

### Rebecca's Dream

Rebecca's Dream: The story begins as we meet Rebecca Casey, a 28-year-old Boston working woman, who dreams of becoming a singer. We also meet her boyfriend Matt who doesn't think much of her dream, and her 17-year-old brother, Kevin, who doesn't think much about the future at all. Rebecca considers applying for music school and pursuing her career full-time, rather than holding down a factory job and doing her music on the side. We also meet real-life immigrants and students who discuss the similarities between Rebecca's experiences and their own.

**Grammar lessons:** *be*: present tense, affirmative statements; subject pronouns; imperatives. ([Learner.org](http://Learner.org))

### Differences

Differences: Rebecca starts to apply to music schools. Her father, a widowed, disabled firefighter, worries that she is choosing a chancy career, and that Kevin is not studying hard enough to graduate. Rebecca's best friend at the factory where she works is Sandy, who admires Rebecca, but in her own life, just wants to settle down and raise a family. The episode includes a review and a brief discussion.

**Grammar lessons:** *be*: present tense, negative statements; indefinite articles *a* and *an* sentences with *there is/there are*; compound sentences with *and*. ([Learner.org](http://Learner.org))

### A Visit To The Doctor

A Visit To The Doctor: Rebecca's father has a worrisome checkup from his doctor. He has to eat better and exercise, or face a possible heart attack—advice he ignores. At a Memorial Day barbecue, Rebecca talks to Sandy about Sandy's boyfriend Jack, who shows up drunk and belligerent. The episode includes a review and a brief discussion.

**Grammar lessons:** *be*: present tense, *yes/no* questions; short answers to *yes/no* questions with *be*; possessive adjectives and possessive nouns. ([Learner.org](http://Learner.org))

### Celebrations

Celebrations: Kevin graduates from high school, and Rebecca, after several rejections, is accepted into the San Francisco College of Music. She hopes to live free in San Francisco with her godmother. After telling Sandy the good news, she plans to confront her father. The episode includes a review and a brief discussion.

**Grammar lessons:** present continuous tense, affirmative statements; definite article *the*; noun phrase: article + adjective + noun. ([Learner.org](http://Learner.org))

### Breaking The News

Breaking The News: Rebecca's father tells Rebecca that he is against the San Francisco plan, but Kevin supports her. Sandy will move in with her difficult boyfriend, Jack. Rebecca and Kevin go shopping for a used car that she can drive across the country to San Francisco, but have no luck. The episode includes a review and a brief discussion.

**Grammar lessons:** present continuous tense, negative statements; *wh*- questions with *who* and *what*; compound sentences with *but*. ([Learner.org](http://Learner.org))

### **Saying Goodbye**

Saying Goodbye: Rebecca gives her final music lesson, while her father secretly goes shopping for a car to give her. After her last softball game, the team gives Rebecca a farewell present and Rebecca and Matt break up. After the segment, Matt reflects on the storyline.

**Grammar lessons:** present continuous tense, *yes/no* questions and short answers; *wh*-questions with *when*; prepositions to tell *when* (present time). ([Learner.org](http://Learner.org))

### **Leaving Home**

Leaving Home: Rebecca's father surprises her with the car and gives her a necklace that belonged to her mother. Kevin gives Rebecca a four-leaf clover key ring and Sandy gives her a diary. Driving out of Boston, Rebecca stops at her mother's grave. The episode includes a review and a brief discussion.

**Grammar lessons:** future with *going to*; *wh*- questions with *where*; adverbs and prepositions to tell *where*. ([Learner.org](http://Learner.org))

### **The Stranger**

The Stranger: When Rebecca reaches the Southwest in her cross-country drive, the car starts leaking oil and finally breaks down on a deserted road. Rebecca gets worried when a stranger approaches on foot out of the desert. He turns out to be a photographer, Alberto, who can't get her car running, but does take her in his own car for help. The episode includes a review and a brief discussion.

**Grammar lessons:** simple present tense, affirmative statements; direct object nouns; direct object pronouns. ([Learner.org](http://Learner.org))

### **The Motel**

The Motel: Rebecca and Alberto reach a phone, but can only leave a message on a garage's answering machine because it's already so late. They drive to a motel, where Rebecca gets the only room left. Alberto must sleep in the car. The episode includes a review and a brief discussion.

**Grammar lessons:** simple present tense, negative statements; demonstrative adjectives; demonstrative pronouns. ([Learner.org](http://Learner.org))

### **Negotiations**

Negotiations: While Rebecca and Alberto have breakfast, the garage tows the car and starts to work on it. But the repairs will cost \$800, so Rebecca sells the car to the garage for \$550, and plans to take the bus all the way to San Francisco, after turning down Alberto's offer to take her along with him. The episode includes a review and a brief discussion.

**Grammar lessons:** simple present tense, *yes/no* questions and short answers; possessive pronouns; *can* (ability, possibility). ([Learner.org](http://Learner.org))

### **Photos and Farewells**

Photos and Farewells: On their way to the bus station, Alberto and Rebecca stop in a beautiful canyon, where Alberto takes some photographs of her. They say goodbye at the bus, and both realize that they're interested in each other, but Rebecca doesn't want a boyfriend at this point in her life. The episode includes a review and a brief discussion.

**Grammar lessons:** *be*: past tense, affirmative and negative statements; *be*: past tense, *yes/no* questions and short answers; count and non-count nouns. ([Learner.org](http://Learner.org))

### **A New Home**

A New Home: Rebecca arrives in San Francisco, and is surprised to discover that her godmother Nancy keeps other boarders too, and that she will have to pay rent as well.

**Grammar lessons:** simple past tense, affirmative and negative statements (regular verbs); simple past tense, *yes/no* questions and short answers; adverbs and prepositions to tell *when* (past time). ([Learner.org](http://Learner.org))

### Job Hunting

Job Hunting: Rebecca has a difficult time getting used to life with other boarders at Nancy's house. At school, Rebecca learns that her work-study program has been canceled so she goes on a job search and meets some interesting prospects. The episode includes a review and a brief discussion.

**Grammar review** *be*: present tense, affirmative and negative statements; *be*: present tense, *yes/no* questions and short answers; *be*: present tense, *wh*- questions and answers. ([Learner.org](http://Learner.org))

### A Bad Day

A Bad Day: Rebecca finds the job search frustrating and shares her disappointments with another boarder. Alberto shows up, and says he wants to tour her around San Francisco — and that he has surprise for her. The episode includes a review and a brief discussion.

**Grammar review** *be*: past tense, affirmative and negative statements; *be*: past tense, *yes/no* questions and answers; *be*: past tense, *wh*- questions and short answers. ([Learner.org](http://Learner.org))

### A Night Out

Rebecca and Alberto see the city and Rebecca meet Alberto's family -- the Mendozas -- who are now close to retiring from their family restaurant, the Casa Mendoza. Alberto has a divorced brother, Ramon, with a 10-year-old-son, Alex. Ramon suggests Rebecca take a job with his son's after-school program. The episode includes a review and a brief discussion.

**Grammar lessons:** *can* and *could* (ability, possibility); *can you/could you/would you* (requests); *can, could, and may* (permission). ([Learner.org](http://Learner.org))

### First Day of Class

First Day of Class: Rebecca finds her first day of classes at the San Francisco College of Music intimidating and expensive. She likes the after-school program a lot, and meets Alex and his best friend, Vincent Wang. Meanwhile, Alberto is working on a deal with some investors who want to buy his parents' restaurant. The episode includes a review and a brief discussion.

**Grammar review:** direct object nouns and pronouns; grammar lessons: direct object infinitives: affirmative and negative statements; direct object infinitives: *yes/no* questions and short answers. ([Learner.org](http://Learner.org))

### Casey at Bat

Casey at Bat: Rebecca is a hit teaching softball and gets a full time job at Alex's after-school program. Alberto sends flowers and asks her to a gallery opening Saturday evening. But his brother, Ramon, is starting to appreciate Rebecca, too. The episode includes a review and a brief discussion.

**Grammar review:** present continuous tense, affirmative and negative statements; present continuous tense, *yes/no* questions and short answers; present continuous tense, *wh*- questions and answers. ([Learner.org](http://Learner.org))

### The Art Gallery

The Art Gallery: Ramon is worried that his ex-wife may take Alex to Los Angeles with her. On her date with Alberto, Rebecca discovers that a photograph he took of her in the canyon is on display at the gallery. The Mendoza family talks about the possibility of selling the restaurant, but Ramon is very against the idea and the parents need more time to consider the idea. The episode includes a review and a brief discussion.

**Grammar review:** simple present tense, affirmative and negative statements; simple present tense, *yes/no* questions and short answers; simple present tense, *wh-* questions and answers. ([Learner.org](http://Learner.org))

### The Picnic

The Picnic: Ramon and Rebecca have a nice chat at a picnic for the after-school program, but are interrupted when some racist kids taunt Vincent Wang for being Chinese. Alex tries to defend him, but some of the other children in the program don't take the incident seriously. Vincent's father is so upset he pulls Vincent out of the program. The episode includes a review and a brief discussion.

**Grammar review:** count nouns; non-count nouns; grammar lessons: sentences with *there was/there were*. ([Learner.org](http://Learner.org))

### Prejudice

Prejudice: Rebecca and the staff of the after-school program explain to the kids why racist names should not be used, and a guest police officer talks about hate crimes. All the kids in the program write cards to Vincent to encourage him to come back to the program. The episode includes reflections on the story by Emma Washington, the woman who runs the after-school program.

**Grammar review:** simple past tense, affirmative and negative statements (regular verbs); simple past tense, *yes/no* questions and short answers (regular verbs); simple past tense, *wh-* questions and answers (regular verbs). ([Learner.org](http://Learner.org))

### A Difficult Decision

A Difficult Decision: The children in the after-school program all send cards to Vincent, but his parents stand firm in their decision not to let Vincent return to the program. Rebecca wants to give shared guitar lessons to Vincent and Alex, so the two friends can still see each other. The episode includes a review and a brief discussion.

**Grammar review:** simple past tense, affirmative and negative statements (irregular verbs); simple past tense, *yes/no* questions and short answers (irregular verbs); simple past tense, *wh-* questions and short answers (irregular verbs). ([Learner.org](http://Learner.org))

### Guitar Lessons

Guitar Lessons: The Wangs agree to the guitar lessons. Alex tells his father that he should date Rebecca, but at the same time, he hopes his parents reconcile. Ramon tells Rebecca that he may have to go to court to prevent his ex-wife from taking Alex to Los Angeles. The episode includes a review and a brief discussion.

**Grammar lessons:** *should* and *must*: affirmative and negative statements; *yes/no* questions and short answers; compound sentences with *and*, *too*, and *either*; tag questions with *be*, *should*, and *can*. ([Learner.org](http://Learner.org))

### The Retirement Party

The Retirement Party: Alex reacts badly to the news that he may have to go to Los Angeles, but Ramon calms him down. Alberto brings Rebecca to the retirement party for the

Mendozas, and Mrs. Mendoza gossips about which of her sons Rebecca should marry. The episode includes a review and a brief discussion.

**Grammar lessons:** the future with *will*: affirmative and negative statements; the future with *will*: *yes/no* questions and short answers; *wh*- questions; present continuous tense and simple present tense for future meaning. ([Learner.org](http://Learner.org))

### **The Phone Call**

The Phone Call: Mr. Mendoza announces that they won't sell the restaurant. Rebecca's godmother arrives with the message that Rebecca's father has been taken to the hospital in Boston. Rebecca leaves the party, planning to fly back to Boston. The episode includes a review and a brief discussion.

**Grammar lessons:** *have to*: present tense, affirmative and negative statements; *yes/no* questions and short answers; *have to*: past tense, affirmative and negative statements; *yes/no* questions and short answers; compound sentences with *or*. ([Learner.org](http://Learner.org))

### **Review:**

Review: A review of the storyline as presented in the first 13 programs.

**Grammar lessons:** *used to*: affirmative and negative statements; drawing conclusions: *might* and *must* in affirmative and negative statements; cardinal and ordinal numbers. ([Learner.org](http://Learner.org))

### **Rebecca Remembers:**

#### **The Emergency**

The Emergency: Kevin meets Rebecca at the Boston airport and tells her their father's heart attack was very serious. At the hospital, the doctor is not optimistic. Kevin and Rebecca return home, and Rebecca finds the house a mess and without food. She questions Kevin about it but soon another call takes them back to the hospital. The episode includes a review and a brief discussion.

**Grammar lessons:** past continuous tense, affirmative statements; past continuous tense, negative statements; stative verbs. ([Learner.org](http://Learner.org))

### **Bad News**

#### **Brothers**

Brothers: Brendan Casey arrives and reconciles with his brother just before he dies. Funeral arrangements are made, and friends and relatives are contacted. The episode includes a review and a brief discussion.

**Grammar lessons:** adverbial phrases and clauses: one action before or after another action; adverbial phrases and clauses: two actions at the same time; past continuous and simple past tense. ([Learner.org](http://Learner.org))

### **Grief**

#### **Life Goes On**

Life Goes On: The family reads the condolence cards and friends drop by with food. Uncle Brendan and his wife Anne offer to help Rebecca and Kevin any way they can. Rebecca tells Kevin they need to decide what they are going to do. They argue and Kevin tells her he can take care of himself. As they go through financial papers, they discover family mementos. The episode is followed by reflections on the story by Frank Wells, Patrick Casey's longtime friend.

**Grammar lessons:** present perfect tense, affirmative statements; adverbials with present perfect tense; present perfect tense and simple past tense. ([Learner.org](http://Learner.org))

## **A Box of Memories**

### **The Missing Car**

The Missing Car: The Casey family goes out for an oyster dinner and Rebecca and Kevin give their grandmother's ring to Brendan. After dinner Kevin takes Uncle Brendan's rental car to go see an old girlfriend. Rebecca questions why she ever went to San Francisco in the first place. Brendan and Anne suggest that Rebecca and Kevin come stay with them on their Illinois farm for a while. The episode includes a review and a brief discussion.

**Grammar lessons:** present perfect continuous tense, affirmative statements; present perfect continuous tense, negative statements; comparative and superlative adjectives. ([Learner.org](http://Learner.org))

### **The Breakdown**

### **A Call For Help**

A Call For Help: Kevin apologizes for taking the car. In the morning, Brendan again invites Rebecca and Kevin to come to the farm. The conversation is interrupted by a call from Sandy who says that Jack has hit her again and she's leaving him. Rebecca and Kevin go to her apartment to help her. The episode includes a review and a brief discussion.

**Grammar lessons:** direct object gerunds: affirmative and negative statements; direct object gerunds: *yes/no* questions and short answers; subject gerunds. ([Learner.org](http://Learner.org))

## **Changes**

### **The Farm**

The Farm: Rebecca and Kevin enjoy a tour of Brendan and Anne's farm. Kevin decides that he will stay and help Brendan on the farm and Rebecca decides to return to San Francisco. The episode includes a review and a brief discussion.

**Grammar lessons:** direct speech; present conditional statements; future conditional statements. ([Learner.org](http://Learner.org))

## **Thanksgiving**

### **Starting Over**

Starting Over: Rebecca returns to San Francisco and learns that she has lost her job in the after-school program. The episode includes a review and a brief discussion.

**Grammar review:** *wh-* questions with *who*, *what*, *when*, *where*, *why*, and *how long*; grammar lessons: *wh-* questions: *who/what* as subjects; *who/whom/what* as objects; *wh-* questions with *what/which/how much/how many* (+ noun). ([Learner.org](http://Learner.org))

## **The Pressure's On**

### **Sharing Feelings**

Sharing Feelings: Rebecca studies for her exams with her schoolmate Bill, who invites her to come to an audition for a rock group. She cancels her opera date with Alberto, who feels sorry for himself and complains about it to Ramon. The episode includes a review and a brief discussion.

**Grammar review:** present perfect tense, *yes/no* questions and short answers; present perfect tense, *wh-* questions; grammar lessons: reflexive pronouns. ([Learner.org](http://Learner.org))

## Unexpected Grief

### The Audition

The Audition: Rebecca studies hard for her exams, and tells Nancy that her education is more important than dating. After an exam, Rebecca goes to the audition with her friend Bill. Bill's audition doesn't interest the studio manager, but he invites Rebecca to sing—she performs "Dreamcatcher." The episode includes a review and a brief discussion.

**Grammar lessons:** *wh-* questions with *how often*; frequency expressions; adverbs of frequency; *wh-* questions with *how* and adverbs of manner; *wh-* questions with *whose*; possessive adjectives, nouns, and pronouns. ([Learner.org](http://Learner.org))

## Dreamcatcher

### Gifts

Gifts: Alberto visits Rebecca at the studio to tell her that he thinks it's better if they remain just friends. After, he stays and listens to the song his gift inspired her to write. Rebecca and Ramon celebrate Christmas together at a community center for the needy. During a phone call, Alex tells his father that he's glad Ramon and Rebecca are spending Christmas together. The episode includes a review and a brief discussion.

**Grammar lessons:** direct speech; grammar lessons: indirect speech; embedded questions. ([Learner.org](http://Learner.org))

## True Love

### Friendship

Friendship: Kevin arrives in San Francisco just as Rebecca is finishing the new recording of her song. Alex and Vincent conspire to spend New Year's Eve together before Vincent moves to Taiwan. Bill tells Rebecca he is moving to Los Angeles to pursue his music career and won't be returning to school next semester. The episode includes a review and a brief discussion.

**Grammar lessons:** passive voice: simple present tense, affirmative and negative statements; passive voice: simple present tense, *yes/no* questions and short answers; prepositional phrases with *by* in passive voice statements. ([Learner.org](http://Learner.org))

## The Lost Boys

### A Very Good Year

A Very Good Year: The Wangs pick up the boys at the hospital and reprimand them for running off. Alex and Vincent explain that they wanted to spend one final New Year's together before the Wangs move to Taiwan and Alex to Los Angeles. Mrs. Wang tells Vincent the two of them will stay in the U.S. for at least a year. Not yet knowing where Alex is, Ramon questions his abilities as a father. Rebecca reassures him. Finally, the Wangs deliver Alex home safely. Everyone celebrates New Year's together at the restaurant and Rebecca and Ramon see that a very good year lies ahead of them.

**Grammar review:** present conditional statements; future conditional statements; grammar lessons: contrary-to-fact conditional statements. ([Learner.org](http://Learner.org))



### Vocabulary Activity (Answer Guide)

1. Tex Mex	Kind of music or food with influences from Texas and Mexico
2. gas guzzler	Fuel eater
3. slipping by	Getting away
4. expecting	Pregnant - with child
5. this is peanuts	A small amount
6. banging my head against the wall	Trying something again and again that does not work
7. can't take it any more	Have had enough
8. day job	Full time employment
9. put me on edge	Make nervous
10. gigs	Performances
11. make it	Succeed
12. zilch	Nothing
13. go for it	Be courageous – take a chance
14. fired up	Excited about
15. tip top	Excellent, superb
16. stingy	Not sharing
17. we can't kid ourselves	Can't pretend
18. call it quits	Say its over
19. ripped off	Taken advantage of
20. at his mercy	I have no power , nothing I can do he is in charge
21. speech less	At a loss for words
22. drop me off	Can you give me a ride, can you take me there
23. get butterflies in my stomach	Get nervous
24. recycle	make new and use again
25. hitch hiker	Someone who catches a ride with a stranger on the side of the road
26. keep an eye on	watch over
27. It's not the Ritz	not the best
28. it's a breeze	easy



## Vocabulary Activity

1. Tex Mex \_\_\_\_\_
2. gas guzzler \_\_\_\_\_
3. slipping by \_\_\_\_\_
4. expecting \_\_\_\_\_
5. this is peanuts \_\_\_\_\_
6. banging my head against the wall \_\_\_\_\_
7. can't take it any more \_\_\_\_\_
8. day job \_\_\_\_\_
9. put me on edge \_\_\_\_\_
10. gigs \_\_\_\_\_
11. make it \_\_\_\_\_
12. zilch \_\_\_\_\_
13. go for it \_\_\_\_\_
14. fired up \_\_\_\_\_
15. tip top \_\_\_\_\_
16. stingy \_\_\_\_\_
17. we can't kid ourselves \_\_\_\_\_
18. call it quits \_\_\_\_\_
19. ripped off \_\_\_\_\_
20. at his mercy \_\_\_\_\_
21. speech less \_\_\_\_\_
22. drop me off \_\_\_\_\_
23. get butterflies in my stomach \_\_\_\_\_
24. recycle \_\_\_\_\_
25. hitch hiker \_\_\_\_\_
26. keep an eye on \_\_\_\_\_
27. It's not the Ritz \_\_\_\_\_
28. it's a breeze \_\_\_\_\_

## Colloquial Expressions and Phrases

### 1<sup>st</sup> CD

#### REBECCA'S DREAM – Episode 1

Employee's entrance – workers in hotels and many restaurants come in the back door

*Here's your share* – of the payment

*"It's peanuts."* - A small amount

*Can't take it anymore.* – can't tolerate the situation anymore.

*"Banging your head against the wall."* – To do something that appears futile

#### DIFFERENCES – Episode 2

*"I can't believe we're out of cereal."* – a food has been completely consumed with out the person realizing it.

*'We're almost out of peanut butter.'* – to finish eating something

Deceased - died

*Junk food* – unhealthy food that contains a lot of sugar, salt and fats.

*"You drive me insane."* – you annoy me.

*"Math is a breeze."* – Math is easy.

*"Back up schools."* – Not Rebecca's most desired selection [Boston Music College] but other universities or colleges which she applied to for acceptance.

*"It's a lot of money, just to apply."* – When person applies to a college or university, the applicant has to pay about \$50. for the process the application.

*"You're all heart."* - That's very generous of you.

*"Make your dreams come true."* – to fulfill one's expectations

*"Give me a break."* – Kevin's response which expresses the feeling that the father is being overly concerned. *"Don't lack confidence in my abilities."*

*"Passed them all with flying colors."* – to get high marks on exams

*"This won't even cover my bills."* – not enough money to pay for the bills.

*"You can kiss that money goodbye."* – slang expression explaining that the loaned money will probably not be returned.

*"I can't stand you, Rebecca."* – to not like someone. In this circumstance, Sandy was slightly envious of Rebecca because she was able to save so much money.

#### VISIT TO THE DOCTOR'S – Episode 3

*Doctors put me on edge* – Father is saying that doctors make him nervous.

*You're a stubborn woman* – Father says that it is difficult to change his daughter's mind.

*That's right I take after my father* – an expression describing how a child has similar characteristics as one of the parents.

*I've been on disability pay since the accident* – If you are injured on the job, there is monthly benefits paid to the injured person.

*You have several potential problems* – doctor is predicting health problems

*Cholesterol* – fatty substance that is found in the body tissue and blood of all animals, and which is thought to be part of the cause of heart disease if there is too much of it.

*EKG (Am) ECG (Br.)* electrocardiograph = equipment that records the electrical activity of the heart as it beats.

*Circulation in your leg is getting worse--*

*Current situation doesn't change you'll have a stroke or heart attack.*

Exercise program Strict diet; Eating potato chips is not good for some one who has high cholesterol.

*Cook out* – outdoor picnic where meat is cooked outside; also barbecue

*Gigs at night* – Musical performances in the evening

*To have a talent like that* – to have a special skill

*Jack's upset because he lost his job yesterday* – Jack was fired.

*Knock it off.* – Stop doing what you're doing. Rather rude

#### **CELEBRATIONS—Episode 4**

*Pomp and Circumstance* – music played at graduation ceremonies

*Boston Latin* – one of the most prestigious high schools in Boston

*Say cheese* – What a person says when they want you to smile as their picture is taken.

*You stepped right in* – to take the responsibility for something

*Rejection letters* – letters saying that a person has been refused admittance to a college.

*Red Sox lost another game.* – Boston baseball team that Bostonians have a great deal of enthusiasm for.

*Crossed fingers* – means good luck, keep hoping

*Acceptance letter* – letter saying that a person has been admitted to a college program

*Wait till your dad and Matt hear about this* – an ominous or foreboding expression to say that bad news will evoke an angry response.

#### **BREAKING THE NEWS—Episode 5**

*Financial Aid and scholarship* – scholarship is an outright grant; financial aid means that there will be extra help in the form of loans or promise of work on campus

*Go for it* – accept it; do it

*No way* – Absolutely not; Father won't give his approval of his daughter's acceptance.

*Rent free* – won't have to pay rent

*Two week notice* – announcement given by an employee to let the employer that he/she is leaving the job. *Quitting* – leaving work

*Then I'm out of here* –I am leaving

*Break time* – when employees can take tea, coffee, or a cigarette

*Dressy* – type of clothing which is more formal

*Zilch* – nothing; to be worth nothing

*Moving in with* – when a girl or boy moves in with their boyfriend or girlfriend.

*Let's change the subject* – let's not argue

*"You are nuts."* – express saying what you are doing is unconventional or slightly crazy.

*It's a Florida car."* - A car without much mileage driven from Florida.

*\$1500 max.* – max. is the abbreviation for maximum . She doesn't want to spend more than \$1500.

#### **SAYING GOODBYE – Episode 6**

*Pay off* – complete buying something

*Ripped off* – when the buyer discovers that he has paid too much for something after he purchased [The car salesman ripped off Rebecca's father.]; also to have something stolen from you; [The gang of kids ripped off the radio from the parked car.]

*To be fired up about something* – to be enthusiastic about something

*Taking a test drive* – to try out an automobile before buying it.

*"Don't be so stingy."* – selfish; you shouldn't keep the potato chips to yourself; offer some of the potato chips to me.

*to be safe / to be out* - a judgment by an umpire in baseball that the play counts and the player is safe or the ball was caught and the play is cancelled and the player is out.

*to call it quits* – to end a friendship or relationship

*I don't get it* – I don't understand the reasoning of another person.

*To reach for the stars* – to have high aspirations.

### **LEAVING HOME – Episode 7**

*Title of the car* – the piece of paper which indicates the ownership of the car, necessary to present when you sell the car.

*Paid the insurance* – monthly insurance payments were made

*I'm speechless*.- to be shocked

*Dad's on my case all the time about these things* – to be concerned or insistent about something.

*Alright already*.- means ok, I've heard enough, but a bit rude. Equivalent "Enough already."

*Hitchhiker* – person who wants a ride from a passing car

### **THE STRANGER – Episode 8**

*Tex-Mex* – abbreviation for Texas-Mexican, a style of cooking or music which blends Texas and Mexican styles

*Gas guzzler* – the car consumes a lot of gasoline

*Fill it up* – fill up the tank with gasoline

*Two quarts of oil* – indicates that car is burning oil

*Pop open the hood (Am.) bonnet (Br.)* – open the metal lid on the front of the car which covers the engine

*Try the car one more time – Maybe the oil pump is broken* – indicates gasoline is not getting to the engine.

## **2<sup>nd</sup> CD**

### **THE MOTEL—Episode 9**

*Make it snappy* – make it fast

*Grill's turned off* – the stove/cooker is off

*Scratch card* – lottery card

*Do you have an aspirin* – medicine for headache

*How the hell should I know* – I don't know how long it will take.

*It's a free country. I can do what I want, when I want* – I don't have to listen to your complaints; contempt for complainers; it's a free country, but it's important to be considerate of others.

### **NEGOTIATIONS—Episode 10**

*What's happening with your car?*

*I'm at his mercy* – means that there is nothing I can do because he controls the situation

*I'm starving* – I am very hungry

*Dream catcher* – According to Native American legends, it catches all the bad dreams and keeps all the good dreams

*I need your ok before I go ahead with the rest of the work* – I need your approval

*Taxi* – not many in the far West where there are great distances

Roads that Rebecca are driving are not typical highways in the Far West. She is on what is called a "back road."

*Hitch hike* – picking up

*I can't believe that you're moving to San Francisco*—I am very surprised

*Dream Catcher* – catches only the bad ones and let's the good ones go through

*Parts and labor and towing* – costs of the repair for the car

Gasket – part for gas pump

*There isn't much of a demand for this type of car, they want pick-ups* – don't have a demand for a two-door sedan but a two-door truck

### **PHOTOS AND FAREWELLS – Episode 11**

*Aguacaliente* – name of Indian tribes

*Picture of Cactus* – known as a Joshua tree

*Desert Oasis* – watering hole in the middle of the desert

*Sacred* - Holy

*Sense of scale* – To show the size of something by comparing it with a known object

*Cop*—slang for police

*Do you know how fast you were going* – Typical question asked by the police

*License and registration* – identification showing that you are a legal driver and ownership of the car

*You have no points on your license, so I won't give you a ticket* – police can check the driving record of any driver to find out if they have a bad driving record; points indicates that the person has other driving offenses.

*Do you mind giving me your address* – would you give me your address

*“People seem to think that you can't tie your shoes laces without a college degree these days”* - Some people think that if you do not have a higher education you can not do simple things – things that a child can do.

*Good sport* – Someone that is flexible and willing to do different things

*You two love birds have to say goodbye.* – referring to a couple who seem to have a friendship

### **A NEW HOME – Episode 12**

*Godmother* – woman who became responsible for her Christian upbringing

*TransAmerica building* – famous building in San Francisco

*Retirement homes for the elderly* – facility for elderly people if they can't take of themselves

*Distinguished Gentleman* - widely known and respected man in society

*Deteriorate* – to become less in quality, the condition falls below normal

*This room is charming* – a way of paying a person a compliment about their home or their appearance.

*“Can we talk?”* - expression to being a serious discussion.

Rebecca's godmother asks Rebecca for \$250 for rent. She explains that she has to pay for the cost of the retirement home for her uncle, plus the property taxes on the house

*“Takes the wind out of my sails”* – all this activity exhausts me.

### **JOB HUNTING – Episode 13**

*It's very spicy* – food that is strongly flavored with hot-tasting spices

*Rent Check, Is it the first of the month?* – Rent is traditionally paid on the first of the month

*Cultural shock* – not used to the customs of the new environment

*Work – study program* – jobs on campus to help the student pay for college

*Resume* – curriculum vitae

### **A BAD DAY – Episode 14**

*Budget cuts*—reduction in funding from the government

*Want ads*—employment postings

*Employment agency*—agency that it responsible for collecting job postings

*Data-entry skills* – in-putting data on the computer  
*Word processing skills*—knowledge of various types of computer programs  
*I have a date* – going out with someone  
*Boarding house* – a house where many people stay in a single room  
*Sleazy*—cheap, dirty, and not social acceptable  
*Sexual Harassment* – behavior by either sex toward the opposition sex which is unwarranted and unwelcome.

### **A NIGHT OUT – Episode 15**

*To withstand earthquakes* – constructed so that it can be demolished in an earthquake  
*Neo-classical architecture* – style of architecture copied after the ancient Greek and Roman architecture  
*Meeting parents* – traditionally this not on the first date  
*Dutiful son* – Ramon follows in the business established by his father

### **FIRST DAY OF CLASS – Episode 16**

*Blues* – type of music  
*Draft it down one octave* – musical expression to change the key down an octave  
*It's a killer* – a very difficult course  
*Scholarship covers only part of the tuition* – the rest is paid by the student  
Job hunting at after school children's program. Rebecca will receive \$22.50 a day; 112.50 a week; \$450 a month.  
*Payment plan* – spread payments of tuition over the semester  
*Part-timers don't get benefits* – no medical benefits for part-time workers  
\$7.50 an hour is slightly above minimum wage  
*Investors* – potential buyers who want to buy the business  
*Don't walk away from this*—don't ignore this offer  
*This is a serious offer* – this is an honest proposal

### **CASEY AT THE BAT—Episode 17**

*Identification* – photo identification, passport, social security card,  
*Felony* – committed a serious crime punishable by one or more years in prison  
*Buckle-up*—put on your seat belt  
*Raise at work* – salary increase  
*Casey at the bat* – a famous poem on baseball  
*Gallery opening* – First day of an Art Gallery

### **THE ART GALLERY – Episode 18**

Custody of a child – usually given to the mother; potential problems if the mother moves away from where the ex-husband lives.

## **3<sup>rd</sup> CD**

### **The Picnic – Episode 19**

*Organizing the three-legged race* – children's sack race  
*Look at the Gooks* – very cruel slang expression describing Asian people  
*I'm beat* – I'm tired  
*Divorced* – legally separation between married people  
*Ex-wife* – former wife  
*Ashamed* – feeling shame or guilt or disgrace; feeling inferior or unworthy

*Racist names* – Chink, gooks, slant eyes

*Prejudice is everywhere* – a preconceived judgment or opinion that is widespread

*Spic and wetback* – racist names for Hispanic people

*Plantains* – an angular starchy vegetable native to South America

### **Prejudice -- Episode 20**

*Calling someone names*—to make derogatory or remarks about someone

*Hate crime* – motivated by bias, ethnic background, race, religion, sexual preference, disability or gender

*Chinese-American* – An American citizen of Chinese descents

*Prejudice* – injury or damage resulting from action in disregard of one's rights; preconceived judgment or opinion

This episode examines the nature of prejudice and the children's response

*Reflection* – to contemplate, to think about past events

*Prejudice is sneaky, you can never tell when it will show it's ugly face* – not straight forward, sly

*Jerks* – An annoyingly stupid or foolish person; slang

*Blame anyone for an unforeseen event* – response to shock of this prejudiced type of behavior

### **A Difficult Decision – Episode 21**

*Parents must protect their children* – parents should keep harm from their children

*Let Vincent comeback to show how to overcome prejudice* – to change people's attitudes

*Optimistic* – an inclination to put to put the most favorable construction upon actions or events

*Disappointed* – defeated in expectation or hope

*Decision when to step in and when to let it go* – when to take action and when to not to take action

### **Guitar Lessons – Episode 22**

*Living every other weekend with me and then your mother* – shared taking care

*Abalita* – Spanish word for grandmother

*Go the court over this decision and the judge may make Alex choose* – In custody disagreements in a divorce case, the judge acts as an intermediary where the welfare of the child is concerned

### **The Retirement Party – Episode 23**

*Retirement is usually celebrated by a party*

*You're kidding* – you're joking

*Don't show your anger at me this isn't the way to solve the problem* –

*Skinny* – too thin

### **The Phone Call – Episode 24**

*Alex is moving to Los Angeles with his mother* – the mother is usually granted custodial rights

*Restaurant is not being sold* – announced by the father

*Dinero and amor* – to money and love

*Four leaf clover* – to bring good luck

*To call Rebecca by her first name and not Miss Casey* – usually children call adults by their last name

### **Review – Episode 25**

*Returning to Boston because the father is hospitalized –  
Neglected signs that something was wrong – ignore symptoms of father's illness*

### **The Emergency -- Episode 26**

*Heart attack is pretty serious  
911 – emergency telephone number  
Do you feel heart beat and breathing  
Estimated time of arrival 3 to 5 minutes – for emergency vehicle  
Collect call – the receiving party pays for the telephone call  
I don't know if I am ready for this – I don't know if I am prepared for this  
Major damage to the heart muscle –  
2<sup>nd</sup> opinion – another doctor looks at the patient to confirm diagnosis  
We are Catholic you know. Last rites – Religious rite performed if there is a possibility that  
the person will die  
Insurance forms that must be filled out.*

### **Bad News – Episode 27**

*Catholic priest comes to visit –  
Maybe this is the time that you should call his brother Brendan  
Sacrament of the sick – the administration of bread and wine  
Your face is all black and blue –bruised  
Bumped into a door – often used excused when someone has been beaten  
Aggressive – angry behavior*

### **Brothers – Episode 28**

*Brendan and his brother are talking after a long family feud –  
Short tempers and long memories – easy to become angry and uneasy in forgiving  
Emergency medical shocks – last attempt to revive a dying patient  
To pass away – died  
Wake – reception at the funeral home where viewing of the body takes place  
Rebecca asks what the disagreement was about between the brothers  
Make our peace – to end the disagreement  
Calamity or disasters bring out the best of human beings*

## **4<sup>th</sup> CD**

### **Grief – Episode 29**

*Firemen who worked with Mr. Casey come to visit at the funeral and gave the helmet in  
memory of his service  
Funeral service in church and then at gravesite service  
Tradition for a few words said by family members at the service  
Eulogy – words said in commemoration at the funeral  
Wake – sit around eat and drink celebrate the life of the person who departed  
Guilty – feeling for being responsible for committing an offense or a sense of inadequacy  
It's such a shame. – expression of regret*

### **Life Goes On – Episode 30**

*Cards are sent to family of the deceased – sending flowers or donation in memory of the  
Father; We've name a donation to the American Heart Association*



Kevin says: Neighbor dropped in with a casserole for us. – traditional way of showing support when someone dies.

“*Put it in the frig*” frig is the abbreviation for refrigerator.

“Patrick and I had come to a reconciliation.” *Reconciliation* – to come to an understanding about past conflicts

Rebecca says “This mural is new. The neighborhood is changing.” – Neighborhood was inhabited by Irish immigrants now the mural shows the faces of Hispanic people.

Rebecca says “*It doesn’t feel real yet.*” Kevin says “*No kidding* [in a sarcastic or ironical tone of voice.]” meaning that the death doesn’t seem to have happened. Kidding means joking, but said with irony it means the opposite.

“*Big sister who butts in to everything*” – slang for interfering into other people’s concerns

“*Get serious*” – be realistic, usually said in a sarcastic tone.

*Insurance policy* – policy which pays money to the family of the deceased.

Rebecca says “The funeral cost \$4000, and not all the bills are covered by the HMO [health medical plan]. “

*Waste not want not* – importance of being thrifty

*Raise a lot of hell* – to make trouble or disturbances

### **A Box of Memories Episode 31**

Fleet Bank – Safety Deposit Box in a bank where families keep valuable records and jewelry in case of fire.

Identification – Picture ID or Driver’s License.

Going through the Safety Deposit Box “Here’s Dad’s Discharge papers from the Fire Department. Birth certificates, death certificate of their mother, passports of grandma and grandpa from Ireland stamped in Ellis Island.” US Savings Bonds in \$100 denominations.

Insurance Policy – Face value \$50,000 Cash in the policy – redeeming the insurance policy

Beneficiary – person who receives the return from the policy. Fiduciary – refers to fiscal responsibility; get money in two or three months

### **The Missing Car – Episode 32**

Union Oyster House in Boston, founded in 1826, is a famous restaurant. The family is eating raw oysters. “Don’t worry, they slide right down. It’s an acquired taste.” -- meaning that you don’t have to chew the oysters. And a person becomes accustomed to eating oysters like this.

Rebecca gives a ring composed of an Irish symbol. Uncle Brendan says “I remember my mother wore this ring.” It’s a Klada [?] ring. They reminisce about what the ring symbolizes.

Uncle Brendan offers Rebecca and Kevin the opportunity to visit his farm. “I don’t want to impose.” – a polite way of offering.

Kevin gets angry and takes the car keys to see his girlfriend.

### **Breakdown – Episode 33**

Kevin picks up an old girlfriend and they sit on the bank of the Charles River overlooking the Boston Harbor. They are discussing the future. “Kevin, didn’t you want to study computer science.”

“I was wrapped up in my courses.” -- I was so involved in university classes, I didn’t call.

“Taking Gothic Literature – type of literature feature authors such as Edgar Allen Poe and Stephen King.”

While Kevin and his girlfriend are talking, Rebecca is discussing her future with Uncle Brendan and when she will return to college.

Uncle Brendan discovers his car is missing when he decides to go back to the motel.

Rebecca calls Sandy to find out if she might now where Kevin is and discovers that Sandy is having troubles with her boyfriend.

Kevin comes home and Uncle Brendan says “The insurance on the car doesn’t cover you.”

Rental car insurance usually only covers the driver.

Kevin says “*Why is everyone always bugging me?*”

Uncle Brendan comes up with an idea.

### **A Call for Help – Episode 34**

Uncle Brendan says “Our proposal is to come to Illinois and weigh the options.” Weigh options means to consider several alternatives.

Rebecca calls Sandy, who says she is moving out of her boyfriend’s apartment. There is a fight. Rebecca picks her up.

### **Changes – Episode 35**

Sandy calls the police for help. She says “My boyfriend has hit me. He’s done it before. I want a restraining order placed on him.” She goes to a Shelter for Battered Women.

No one can know the location to protect her. Maybe Sandy should move into our apartment, Rebecca suggests.

“*Check the mail box to see if the mail has arrived.*” Letter from Ramon Mendoza and his son Alex, with a picture drawn by Alex.

Rebecca is describing the friendship with Ramon. Kevin says, “*Run that by me again.*” – This expression means repeat what you’ve just said, I don’t understand.

Restraining order from the court is a legal order which prohibits contact by the person who has battered his/her spouse or girlfriend.

Sandy talks to Rebecca over coffee. After the support group meeting at the Shelter. Sandy says “*I’m going to turn my life around. I going to need some help.*” I am going to change, but I need psychological counseling. “I used to think I had bad luck, but now I know you make your own luck.” -- a philosophical statement about using your own determination to succeed.

Rebecca empties the apartment and reminisces about their life in the apartment.

### **The Farm – Episode 36**

“*There’s a bathroom over there if you want to freshen up.*” -- expression to say that if you want to use the toilet and to put on new make up.

“My family bought the farm in the early 1900’s and it’s been with the family since then.”

Costs are rising. “It must be so hard for you.”

Uncle Brendan describes his farm. *Primarily a dairy farm. 120 cows. Milking twice a day, even on Sunday. We don’t have religious cows.*” - expression refers to the fact that cows don’t rest on Sunday.

Kevin says “It’s amazing he knows where every dollar goes.” *Layoff one of the farm hands.* – expression refers to explain that they have to relieve a person of his job.

“*It will put hair on your chest.*” -- Uncle Brendan is referring to the fact that the odor of cow manure will make you stronger. Common expression used when you have to take medicine you don’t like or eat healthy food that you don’t like.

“*Price of doing business on a dairy farm.*” -- refers to literally the costs, but also the hardships of running your own farm.

“Can you check the turkey?” -- meaning can you see if the turkey is cooking nicely and not burning.

Kevin says: I didn’t realize farmers used computers.

Kevin is referring to her sister when he says: *She’s a real pain in the neck.* – she’s a difficult or annoying person.

“My job is a dead end job.” – describes a job without a future.

“It’s a free country.” – expression describing we live in a place where many choices are possible.

### **Thanksgiving – Episode 37**

“Check on the green beans.” – common expression to describe watching the progress of something that is cooking.

It’s traditional to watch a football game on television on Thanksgiving. Many college and professional football matches are held then.

Prayers before dinner is traditional custom. Rebecca sings a Shaker folksong. ‘Tis a gift to be simple. Remember the happy moments and the sad moments.

Lullaby – song sung to young children

Uncle Brendan is driving a pick up truck

### **Starting Over – Episode 38**

Scene of a traditional Christmas tree.

*Discussing a Christmas bonus* – two tickets to the opera were the bonus that Alberto received from his business. In private business, if the company is profitable, they employees get extra money.

Rebecca returns to San Francisco. Her godmother advises her “to take one step at a time.” Rebecca says, “First step is to call my advisor.”

She goes to the after school program and learns that her boss had to replace her because the “place was frantic as usual.” --meaning that the program was very busy and they needed help.

## **5<sup>th</sup> CD**

### **The Pressure’s On – Episode 39**

“Where are you off to?” -- where are you going?

*Laughter is the best medicine* – proverb meaning that having a sense of humor makes you feel better.

Rebecca discusses her options with her advisor. “If you fail [your exams], you’ll lose your precious scholarship. You can take an incomplete and start all over again. Or you can study hard and take the exams.”

Rebecca says “I’ll study like mad and go for it.” --meaning I’ll take the exams; I’ll succeed. The professor advises her to get the class notes from her classmates. I’ll give you a copy of last year’s test.

Rebecca says “I’ll give it my best shot. I’ll cram for the finals this year. I’m going to make it happen here in San Francisco.” -- all expressions indicating desire to succeed and get positive results. Cram means to take in as much information as possible in a short amount of time.

Alberto comes over and asks her to the opera. Rebecca says “I have to cram for my exams. If I fail the exams, I lose my scholarships.” Alberto’s tone of voice indicates that he is not used to accepting “No” for an answer.

Rebecca “I’m overwhelmed by everything.” – meaning that I have so much to do I’m having a hard time knowing where to begin.  
Discussion at end of episode dwells on the choice between a career and having a husband/wife. Balance between things.

#### **Sharing Feelings – Episode 40**

Bill says to Rebecca “*I know you’re going to Ace this test.*” – expression describing getting an A on the test.  
Bill says “*I’m trying to get my parents off my back. I’m going to make a pitch to the Moles [recording group].*” Parents are complaining about their son. To make a sales pitch means to try and convince someone of your talents.  
Bill says “*You come to the audition as my backup singer.*” Bill wants Rebecca to sing as an accompaniment.  
Bill and Rebecca discuss why they went to play music. Bill wants to play in a hard rock group and make a lot of music. Rebecca wants to compose music because it is a part of her life.  
Bill says “*She’s getting sappy on me.*” – meaning that Rebecca is getting sentimental.  
“*The more irons in the fire you have, the better off you are.*” Expression that says the more possibilities for work you have, the better chance you have for getting a job.  
Ramon and Alberto discuss their future before he takes his brother to a ski trip in Aspen, Colorado.  
“You sound like a spoiled brat.” – brat is a child who wants his/her own way all the time. You must be patient.  
Alberto says “My older brother is explaining to me the inside workings of the opposite sex.” What is your impression of this conversation between Alberto and Ramon? What is each implying?

#### **Unexpected Offers – Episode 41**

Ramon is seeing his son Alex off on the airplane to visit his mother at Christmas.  
Alex tells his father that he wants his father to deliver Christmas presents to Vincent, Uncle Alberto and Rebecca. Vincent doesn’t want to go to L.A.  
“No way.” Alex’s way of saying I really don’t agree.  
Scene shifts. Mr. Wang got a letter from a company in Taiwan offering him a job.  
He and his wife discuss the possibility of moving back to Taiwan. Vincent overhears the conversation.  
Ramon asks Rebecca “If she’s doing anything for Christmas?” as a way of inviting her for a Christmas celebration.  
*Posada* – A Mexican tradition in which people sing Christmas carols in the streets and ask for shelter and share the Christmas story.  
Should Ramon have asked Rebecca to spend Christmas with him? It’s a decent thing to do to have a talk to Alberto to have men express their feelings.

#### **The Audition – Episode 42**

“*Studying for exams certainly burns up energy.*”  
Bill convinces Rebecca to do to the audition. “We’re here for the Mole’s audition.” How much long do you want us to wait?” Rudeness on the part of the Recording company.  
*Quick scratch track for you* – music slang for a very quick recording  
Before Rebecca sings, Alberto tries to convince Rebecca to come with him to Aspen to go skiing.

Rebecca sings “Dream Catcher” and Alberto hears her singing as he leaves the recording studio.

Discussion at the end of the episode: Wouldn’t it be awkward to be dating two brothers. I don’t think she should have to choose between school work and music. I think should have it all.

### **Dream Catcher – Episode 43**

“*Lighten up a little.*” – Don’t be so serious.

“*I’d love to orchestrate it for you.*” – arrange the musical parts of other instruments

*Getting out there is part of learning.* – Getting experience is important to be a musician.

*There’s a lot at stake for her.* – stresses the importance of something which will have long term effects, such as passing exams and doing well on the audition.

When will you get your grades? They’ll mail them to me after Christmas.

Reflections: Bill says I think she knows who she is and what she wants. There’s real talent there. *I am interesting in making money and selling product.* – I am interested in playing in bands and making record albums [product.]

### **Gifts – Episode 44**

Rebecca says: I’m in the sound studios for the next two days.

Alberto says, “*I’m hitting the slopes for the holidays.*” -- I’m going skiing.

Why did Alberto give her the picture of his brother Ramon with his son?

Nancy, Rebecca’s god mother, says “I think he might be trying to tell you something.” – maybe he’s telling you that Ramon is the person you should be interested in.

### **True Love – Episode 45**

Ramon comes over to visit Rebecca and to bring Alex’s present. Rebecca says that Nancy must be at the retirement home with her uncle.

Rebecca gives a tape of her “Dream Catcher” song to Ramon.

Ramon gives her a Peruvian figure of a man called an Akkeko. The figure is covered with symbols of a person’s life. To make these wishes come true, Ramon says, the Akkeko has to smoke once everyday. Rebecca looks surprised and says “Well, guess he’s have to smoke outside like everyone else in America.”

Rebecca says “I’d like to go to the community center with you and share Christmas and serve Christmas dinner.

Ramon invites Rebecca to his restaurant on New Year’s Eve.

When Rebecca tells Nancy she is going to the New Year’s party, Nancy says “*Are you two an item yet?*” – expression asking if she and Ramon are serious or dating each other.

### **Friendship – Episode 46**

Kevin comes out to visit Rebecca in San Francisco. Rebecca walks her brother around the sound studio.

Kevin says “*Knock ‘em dead.*” --meaning do a great job with your talent.

Alex and Vincent are talking about Vincent moving back to Taiwan.

“*What a drag.*” --meaning how unappealing is the prospect of moving back to Taiwan. It’s a drag – means it is an uninteresting option. “It’s a different country. I think they speak Mandarin in Taiwan,” Vincent says.

Do you really *have* to move to Taiwan? – Will your parents require or make you go to Taiwan.

Your dad called, Alex, and he said “*he’s running a little late.* He’ll pick you up in 5minutes.”  
– he will not be on time.

“*We could have a blast.*” -- typical teen age expression for having a good time.

Alex is looking at the present that Rebecca gave him. It’s a baseball autographed by the players on Oakland Athletics baseball team.

“*I’m so out of touch.*” Says Ramon, meaning that he has kept current with the names of the baseball players.

Rebecca sings her song in the studio and Kevin says “*That was totally cool.*”

Rebecca sees Bill and he tells her “I’m not coming back to school next semester.” She says “You’re nuts.”

Discussion at the end of the episode: Reviewing Alberto’s conversation. I’m leaving for the holidays. I agree that we should be just friends. I enjoy of relationship. It is a friendship. Some one says It’s very difficult to be just friends. Alberto sees that Ramon has an interest in Rebecca.

And I hope this New Year brings him all the loving friendship he deserves.

Other cultures have holidays: Kwanzaa [an African American holiday] Hanukkah [Feat of Lights celebrated by people of the Jewish faith], La Posada [traditional Christmas celebrations of people from Mexico].

### **Lost Boys – Episode 47**

Vincent and Alex plan to go to the ice skating rink to celebrate New Year’s Eve.

Scenes from Chinatown, the section of San Francisco where many ethnic Chinese live

When the boys do not tell their parents where they are going, Vincent’s parents and Ramon conduct an exhaustive search.

*He saw the First Aid person* – emergency medical personnel

### **A Very Good New Year – Episode 48**

Ramon says “This is my worst nightmare.” – meaning I can’t imagine anything worse happening.

Mr. Wang says, “I want to get to the bottom of this.” – meaning I want to find out how this problem occurred.

Vincent says “Alex is my best friend and I wanted to spend my last New year’s with him before we move to Taiwan.”

Ramon says about his son, “I made him feel like a piece of baggage.” – meaning I made him feel unimportant.

Ramon says to Alex, “You know you’re grounded for a very long time.” -- means that as a punishment for not telling his father where he is going, Alex must come home after school and can’t go play with his friends outside his house.

## Teacher Training Workshop Lesson Plan

**Teachers  
Names**

**Session #**

**Title**

Please provide step by step instructions as to all the activities you will be performing in your lesson.

**1. Introduction:**

**Teacher's Name:**

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**2. Before watching Task(s):**

**Teacher's Name:**

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**3. While watching Task(s):**

**Teacher's Name:**

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**4. After watching Task(s):**

**Teacher's Name:**

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## Teacher Training Workshop Evaluation Form

**Please circle the number that best suits your opinion**

1 = Not Good      2 = OK      3 = Good      4 = Very Good      5 = Excellent

- |  |                   |
|--|-------------------|
| 1. The Presentation – Sample Class       | 1   2   3   4   5 |
| 2. Teaching Practicum                    | 1   2   3   4   5 |
| 3. Materials                             | 1   2   3   4   5 |
| 4. Overall organization of the workshop? | 1   2   3   4   5 |

**Please answer the questions. Thank You – Your comments are helpful!**

5. What did you like most about the presentation and sample class?

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6. What did you like least about the presentation and sample class? Do you have any suggestions to improve it?

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7. Please write one or more activities from the presentation and sample class you saw today that you will try in your classroom.

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8. What did you like most about the teaching practicum?

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9. What did you like least about the teaching practicum? Do you have any suggestions to improve it?

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10. Please write at least one or more activities you saw in the Teaching Practicum today that you will try in your classroom.

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11. Do you have any other comments? Suggestions?

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## CONNECT WITH ENGLISH

### Evaluation Form Community Group (Individual Response)

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Today's date \_\_\_\_\_

1. Are you an English teacher? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

If YES, where do you teach? How old are your students and what English level are they? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

If you are not an English teacher, what do you do? Student? Retired person? Other? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. Why are you interested in *Connect With English*?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. What was most helpful about this course? Free discussion? Learning new words and phrases? Listening to native speakers? Group work? Other?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. What was least helpful about this course? Not enough time to discuss? Not enough vocabulary instruction? Working in groups? Difficult to see or hear the video? Difficult to see written questions and new words?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. Please offer 1-3 suggestions to improve this course (i.e. More pronunciation practice, change groups, faster or slower pace, other activities, etc...)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. Other comments \_\_\_\_\_

## CONNECT WITH ENGLISH

### Evaluation Form Community Group (Group Discuss / Respond)

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What was most helpful about this course? Free discussion? Learning new words and phrases? Listening to native speakers? Group work? Other?

What was least helpful about this course? Not enough time to discuss? Not enough vocabulary instruction? Working in groups? Difficult to see or hear the video? Difficult to see written questions and new words?

Please offer 1-3 suggestions to improve this course (i.e. more pronunciation practice, change groups, faster or slower pace, other activities, etc...)

Other?

**CONNECT WITH ENGLISH**  
**Video Course**  
**Teacher Information and Agreement of Use Form**

Teacher Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone numbers: Home \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

How will you use this course? \_\_\_\_\_

Name of institution that the  
course will be used at: \_\_\_\_\_

Address of institution: \_\_\_\_\_

Age of students who will use  
this course: \_\_\_\_\_

I \_\_\_\_\_ agree to offer information about how I am using this course

\_\_\_\_\_  
(your name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Your signature) (Date)

(Return to English Language Fellow)

-----✂Cut✂-----

(Teacher's copy)

Please send a paragraph report within the first month about how you are using Connect with English video course to:

## MUSIC IN THE SERIES

### DREAMCATCHER

All the 1. \_\_\_\_\_ are shining bright down in the 2. \_\_\_\_\_;

Shining like a 3. \_\_\_\_\_ stars

4. \_\_\_\_\_ I feel like I'm upside down and  
all those dreams are 5. \_\_\_\_\_ right past me

Everyone 6. \_\_\_\_\_ a dreamcatcher

Someone to be 7. \_\_\_\_\_ when your dreams start to fall

8. \_\_\_\_\_ needs a dreamcatcher

Someone to be there when the 9. \_\_\_\_\_ dreams are all you can 10. \_\_\_\_\_

Dreamcatcher 11. \_\_\_\_\_ me

All the 12. \_\_\_\_\_ are shining bright in the city

One of them 13. \_\_\_\_\_ be for me.

Sometimes I feel I could just 14. \_\_\_\_\_ one

That 15. \_\_\_\_\_ be enough, enough for me

16. \_\_\_\_\_ needs a dreamcatcher

Someone to be there when 17. \_\_\_\_\_ dreams start to fall

Everyone needs a 18. \_\_\_\_\_

Someone to 19. \_\_\_\_\_ there when the bad dreams 20. \_\_\_\_\_ all you can see

Dreamcatcher catch 21. \_\_\_\_\_

### ONE FINE DAY

One of these days I'm gonna 1. \_\_\_\_\_

I'm gonna see the 2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_ I'm gonna shake my head

Gonna 4. \_\_\_\_\_ shining light

I'm gonna 5. \_\_\_\_\_

I'm gonna 6. \_\_\_\_\_

I'm gonna 7. \_\_\_\_\_

And say, 8. \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

All my blues are gonna 9. \_\_\_\_\_

One fine day (4x)

All my blues are gonna roll away

One of these days 10. \_\_\_\_\_ Einstein

I'm gonna see the truth 11. \_\_\_\_\_

One of these days 12. \_\_\_\_\_ start to shine

All the darkness 13. \_\_\_\_\_

I'm gonna 14. \_\_\_\_\_

I'm gonna 15. \_\_\_\_\_

I'm gonna 16. \_\_\_\_\_

And say, 17 \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_  
All my blues are gonna 18. \_\_\_\_\_  
One fine day (4x)  
19. \_\_\_\_\_

### ANSWER KEY

#### **DREAMCATCHER**

All the 1. lights are shining bright down in the 2. city;  
Shining like a 3. million dreams  
4. Sometimes I feel like I'm upside down and  
all those dreams are 5. falling right past me

Everyone 6. needs a dreamcatcher  
Someone to be 7. there when your dreams start to fall  
8. Everyone needs a dreamcatcher  
Someone to be there when the 9. bad dreams are all you can 10. see  
Dreamcatcher 11. catch me

All the 12. dreams are shining bright in the city  
One of them 13. must be for me.  
Sometimes I feel I could just 14. touch one  
That 15. would be enough, enough for me

16. Everyone needs a dreamcatcher  
Someone to be there when 17. your dreams start to fall  
Everyone needs a 18. dreamcatcher  
Someone to 19. be there when the bad dreams 20. are all you can see  
Dreamcatcher catch 21. me

#### **ONE FINE DAY**

One of these days I'm gonna 1. get outa bed  
I'm gonna see the 2. sun shine bright  
3. One of these days I'm gonna shake my head  
Gonna 4. feel that shining light

I'm gonna 5. turn to the right  
I'm gonna 6. turn to the left  
I'm gonna 7. raise up my arms  
And say, 8. yes, yes, yes  
All my blues are gonna 9. roll away  
One fine day (4x)  
All my blues are gonna roll away

One of these days 10. just like Einstein  
I'm gonna see the truth 11. turn on

One of these days 12. my head will start to shine  
All the darkness 13. will be gone

I'm gonna 14. turn to the right  
I'm gonna 15. turn to the left  
I'm gonna 16. raise up my arms  
And say, 17 yes, yes, yes  
All my blues are gonna 18. roll away  
One fine day (4x)  
19. All of my blues will roll away

**Possible Controversial Issues:**  
**(Some are more taboo subjects than others in various places)**

1. Episode 1: Matt and Rebecca kiss goodnight in his truck.
2. Episode 3: Jack Sandy's boyfriend is drunk at the BBQ.
3. Episode 5: Sandy says that she and Jack going to live together.
4. Episode 5: Sandy says she has to smoke a cigarette and then she smokes outside.
5. Episode 10: Alberto takes a shower in Rebecca's room and get out of the shower sticks his head out the door of the bathroom to talk to her. The perception is that he has no clothes on as he is wet from the shower.
6. Episode 14: The topic of sexual harassment in the workplace is discussed.
7. Episode 18: Alberto and Rebecca kiss passionately goodbye.
8. Episode 27: Sandy has a black eye - she was hit by Jack.
9. Episode 34: Jack hits Sandy – domestic abuse.
10. Episode 45: Rebecca and Ramon (Alberto her boyfriend's brother) Kiss passionately, twice

## **Bibliography**

Learner.Org. "Teacher Resource Foreign Language, Overview Connect with English, Individual Program Descriptions." 1998 – 2007, Annenberg Media. January 25, 2007 <<http://www.learner.org/resources/series71.html>>.